

## ABSTRACT

A technique for managing loops between network devices such as customer and carrier edge devices involves monitoring the MAC moves that occur at a device to detect the  
5 existence of a loop and initiating a loop protection action if the MAC moves indicate that a loop exists. The number of MAC moves that indicates the existence of a loop is user programmable and pre-established in the device configuration. The number of MAC moves can be expressed as a MAC move threshold, which is defined in terms of, for example, a MAC move rate or a number of MAC moves. Typically, the loop protection  
10 action that is initiated in response to a detected loop involves blocking the flow of the looping packets at the corresponding device.